

January 27, 1999

The Honorable Gray Davis, Governor
State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Davis:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to possible state legislation imposing a tax on wine and other alcoholic beverages to help fund domestic violence prevention programs. We'd appreciate your assistance in this important matter.

While domestic violence is undoubtedly an extremely important issue which must be addressed, a tax on wine is clearly the wrong approach. An increase in the wine excise tax would have a devastating impact on California's wine industry, which generates more than \$11.5 billion in economic activity in the state, employs over 200,000 people and provides over \$1.5 billion in tax revenues to state and local governments.

In 1995 and 1996, there were two attempts to increase the wine tax -- one to help bailout Los Angeles County and the other to fund California's public schools -- and both were unsuccessful. The later proposal was dropped after the Senate Select Committee on California's Wine Industry conducted two hearings. Testimony was presented at these hearings indicating that such a tax would drive California wineries out of business and force widespread layoffs in wine producing regions.

Because the same tragic results would occur today, we respectfully request that you oppose any measure increasing the tax on wine.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important request. Please contact us if you have any questions or comment.

Sincerely,



Mike Thompson, Member of Congress

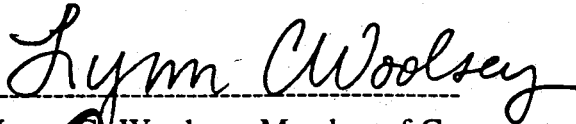


Lois Capps, Member of Congress

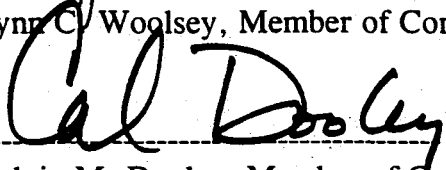
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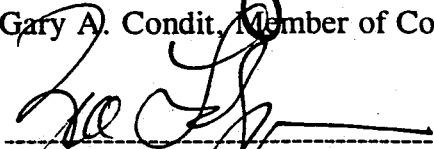
Lynn C. Woolsey, Member of Congress



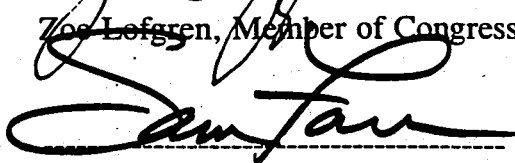
Calvin M. Dooley, Member of Congress



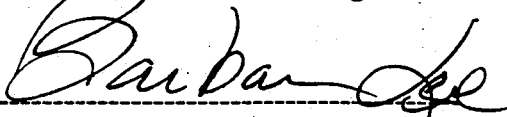
Gary A. Condit, Member of Congress



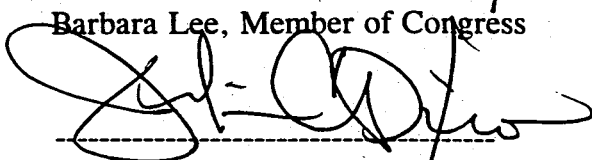
Zoe Lofgren, Member of Congress



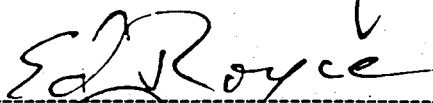
Sam Farr, Member of Congress



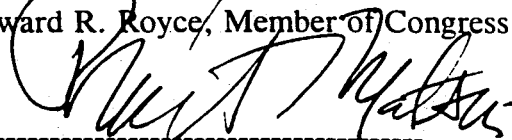
Barbara Lee, Member of Congress



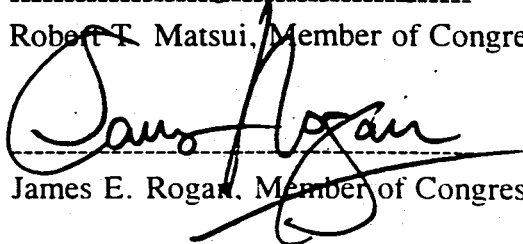
Julian C. Dixon, Member of Congress



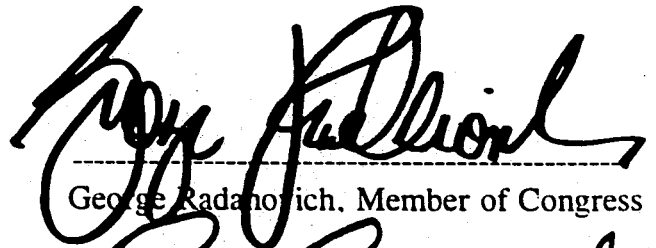
Edward R. Royce, Member of Congress



Robert T. Matsui, Member of Congress



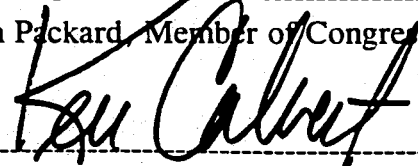
James E. Rogan, Member of Congress



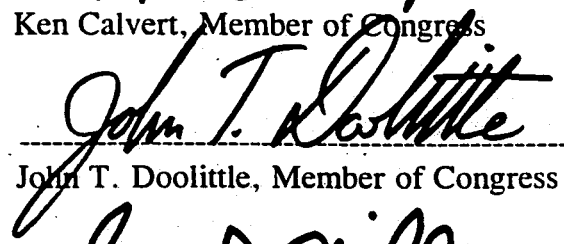
George Radanovich, Member of Congress



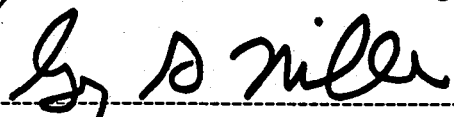
Ron Packard, Member of Congress



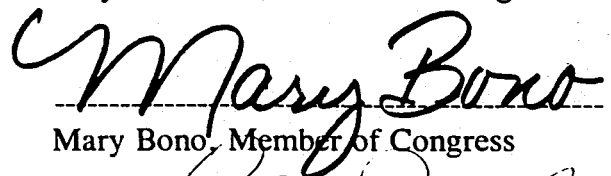
Ken Calvert, Member of Congress



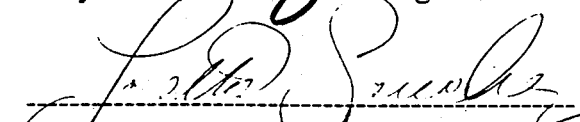
John T. Doolittle, Member of Congress



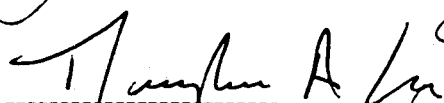
Gary G. Miller, Member of Congress



Mary Bono, Member of Congress



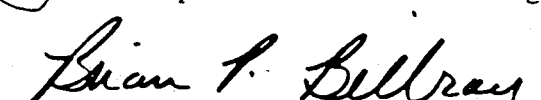
Loretta Sanchez, Member of Congress



Doug Ose, Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano, Member of Congress



Brian P. Bilbray, Member of Congress